

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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PAVE PAWS STUDY RELEASED

BOSTON - The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) today released a report which addresses citizen concerns about potential health effects resulting from the operation of the Pave Paws radar facility at the Massachusetts Military Reservation in Bourne. The report was prepared by an expert scientific panel assembled by the MDPH which reviewed historical information on the PAVE PAWS facility, met with military and civilian staff and attended a public hearing held to identify resident concerns.

While the report concludes "there is no definitive scientific evidence to claim that the anticipated low radio frequency radiation (RFR) levels from PAVE PAWS could cause any harmful effect to the public," it also states that there is "suggestive scientific evidence that RFR produces bio-effects at much lower intensities than previously known." For this reason, the panel is recommending that exposure risks to RFR from PAVE PAWS be evaluated through environmental sampling.

The MDPH supports the panel's recommendations and the public sentiment that there should be a comprehensive characterization of PAVE PAWS RFR exposure. MDPH officials previously met with Air Force Representatives to discuss the need for additional sampling. The Air Force has agreed to collaborate with all stakeholders in supporting the panel's recommendations for a comprehensive characterization of potential PAVE PAWS RFR in affected Cape Cod communities. This will enable the MDPH to assess public exposure opportunities in various Upper cape environments.

The MDPH will seek the collaboration of local health officers, legislators, and the public to develop an effective protocol for the comprehensive characterization of opportunities for human exposure to PAVE PAWS.

Hardcopies of the reports are available on Friday, November 26, 1999. Copies of the reports will also be made available on the Internet at: www.state.ma.us/dph/beh on Monday, November 29, 1999.